

and the artillerymen, immediately resuming their guns in the most prompt manner, opened a destructive fire of grapeshot on them as they retired.

"After the failure of the first attack the-French had little or no chance of success in renewing it; but the officers, perhaps ashamed of the failure of troops of whose prowess they were justly proud, endeavored repeatedly to bring them back to charge the squares; they could, however, only be brought to pass between them and round them; they even penetrated to our second line, where they cut down some stragglers and artillery drivers, who were with the limbers and ammunition wagons. They charged the Brunswick squares in the second line with no better success, and were driven back by the Allied cavalry, some of whom suffered from, pursuing too far.

" If the Allies had been in retreat such an attack of cavalry might have led to the most important results; but the French cavalry, in passing and repassing the British squares, suffered severely by their fire; so much so that before the end of the action, when they might have been of great use, either in the last great attack, or in covering the retreat, they were nearly destroyed. The only advantage which appeared to result from their remaining in the British position was, that it prevented the guns from playing on the columns which afterwards formed near La Belle Alliance, in order to debouch for a new attack. The galling fire of the infantry, however, forcing the French horsemen at length to retire into the hollow ground to cover themselves, the artillery were again at their guns, and being in advance of the squares saw completely into the valley, and by their well-directed fire made gaps in them as they re-formed to repeat this useless expenditure of lives. Had Bonaparte been on the spot he would no doubt have prevented this wanton sacrifice of some of his best troops. The protracted presence of his cavalry in the British lines evidently prevented him from concentrating the fire of his powerful artillery on that part of the line he intended to break, as had always been his custom; and this was treating his enemy with a contempt which,